

1.5.2 Consumption Comparisons in 2008

One quad equals:

- 49.5 million short tons of coal
 - = enough coal to fill a train of railroad cars 4,066 miles long (about one and a half times across the U.S.)
- 972.8 billion cubic feet natural gas
- 8.2 billion gallons of gasoline = 21.3 days of U.S. gasoline use
 - = 22. million passenger cars each driven 12,400 miles
 - = 19.2 million light-duty vehicles each driven 12,200 miles
 - = all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold, each driven 40,000 miles
 - = 14. million stock passenger cars, each driven 11,500 miles = 10% of all passenger cars, each driven 11,500 miles
 - = all new passenger cars each making 9 round-trips from New York to Los Angeles
- 172.4 million barrels of crude oil = 14.26 days of U.S. imports = 167 days of oil flow in the Alaska pipeline at full capacity
 - = the amount of crude oil transported by 483 supertankers
- 17.8 hours of world energy use
- the electricity delivered from 238 coal-fired power plants (200-MW each) in one year
- the electricity delivered from 37 nuclear power plants (1000-MW each) in one year
- average annual per capita consumption of 3.06 million people in the U.S.
- the approximate annual primary consumption of any one of the following states: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming (1)

Note(s): 1) All states listed have annual energy consumption that is within 20% off one quad.

Source(s): EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2011 Early Release, Dec. 2010, Summary Reference Case Tables, Table A1, p. 1-2, Table A2, p. 3-5, Table A7, p. 34-35, Table A8, p. 18-19, Table A9, p. 20-21, and Table A11, p. 23-24 for consumption; EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2010, May 2010, Table G1, p. 215 for heat rates; EIA, State Energy Data 2008: Consumption, June 2010, Table S3, p. 5, Table R1, p. 15, and Table R2, p. 16; EIA, Electric Power Annual 2009, January 2011, Table 1.1, p. 14; DOC, Statistical Abstract of the United States 2008, May 2008, No. 1080 p. 690; DOC, Statistical Abstract of the United States 2011, 2010, No. 1031, p. 658, and No. 1074, p. 686; and Newport News Shipbuilding Web site.